

DATE 25 Sep 69

PAGE

3

## Fulbright Stresses Lack of Formal Saigon Aid Bid

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 24—Senator J. W. Fulbright intends to use the State Department's disclosure of the absence of a formal, written request from Saigon for American troops "for all it's worth" in making his case against the war in Vietnam, an aide to the Senator said today.

The spokesman said that Mr. Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, would question Secretary of State William P. Rogers on the implications of the lack of such a request when the Secretary next appears before the committee.

The committee has been trying to get Mr. Rogers to testify for several months. A State Department spokesman said Mr. Rogers would appear at a "mutually satisfactory date" after his return from the United Nations General Assembly.

The State Department holds that the absence of a formal request does not undermine the political, constitutional or diplomatic basis for the presence of American troops in South Vietnam.

### 'Flouting of Right to Know'

Senator Fulbright, long a critic of United States involvement in South Vietnam, brought the issue to light Sept. 12 on the floor of the Senate. He began by stating that "in terms of flouting by Government officials of the people's right to know the facts, there has been no period in American history comparable to that of our involvement in Vietnam."

The Arkansas Democrat said he was struck by a report from Gen. William C. Westmoreland, formerly the American commander in Vietnam and now Chief of Staff of the Army, that contained no mention of a request for American troops by the South Vietnamese Government.

The Senator said he wrote to Secretary Rogers on May 12 asking for copies of any formal request, saying that "questions have been raised, from time to time, concerning the circumstances under which United States combat forces were first sent to Vietnam."

ment thereon, were such as to be regarded by our Government as constituting a request from the Government of Vietnam."

Mr. Torbert said that a communiqué issued by their Premier of South Vietnam, Phan Huy Quat, on March 7, 1965, confirmed the request.

In his speech Mr. Fulbright said that "it is shocking

to realize that Congress was not asked for specific authority for the sending of American soldiers to South Vietnam and, indeed, that the Government of South Vietnam itself did not make a written, formal request for these troops."

The largely secret United States involvement in Laos has become an issue here in the

### 'Constant Consultation'

After a four-month search, which evidently turned up no formal request, the State Department replied. H. G. Torbert Jr., Acting Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, said the dispatch of troops "resulted from a continuing analysis of a constantly changing situation."

"The continuing analysis to which I have referred," Mr. Torbert wrote, "and the series of decisions resulting from it, were made in close and constant consultation with the Government of Vietnam. The process of analyzing the situation by the Government and the